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16. — *The New Path*. Published by the Society for the Advancement of Truth in Art. Nos. 1 to 8. May to December. 1863. [New York.] 8vo. Monthly. pp. 16.

By far the most interesting and noteworthy American publication concerning Art, during the past year, is the little journal called by the somewhat vague and inappropriate name of "The New Path." Unheralded by advertisements, appearing without name of publisher, editor, or contributor, it makes no immodest claim to the attention of the public. It rests its claim, whatever it may be, upon its intrinsic merits. And in truth there has been no discourse or criticism upon matters of Art in America so valuable as its pages contain, since the essays by Mr. Stillman in the earlier volumes of "The Crayon." For among the writers in "The New Path" are men, not only of talents, but of serious convictions and of independent thought. Disciples of Mr. Ruskin, they are no blind followers even of that great master, to whom every true lover of art must confess his inestimable obligations. They are beholden, indeed, to him, not only for quickened perceptions of natural beauty, but for understanding that truth to nature is the test of all art, the most imaginative no less than the most literal. The opinions of the writers of "The New Path," even when far from popular, are expressed with manly frankness and honesty. There is occasionally in its papers a tone of dogmatism and self-sufficiency, occasionally also a crudity and want of completeness, which, being combined with singular sincerity and simplicity, not unpleasantly reveal the youth while indicating the capacity for growth of the writers. But "The New Path" has also contained essays which exhibit rare clearness and consecutiveness of thought, expressed in a style of not less uncommon transparency and unobtrusive beauty.

The fact that there is in this country so much empty, unmeaning, and ignorant talk about Art, is likely to prevent "The New Path" from receiving from the wearied public the attention it deserves. But a journal holding faithfully in view the object of promoting truth (that is, truthfulness) in Art, ought to fulfil an important part in correcting the prevailing false opinions, and in cultivating the undeveloped and too often misdirected taste of the community. "The New Path" may not gain a wide and general success, but it gives happy promise for the future of Art in America, by giving proof of the increase and ability of the school of thinkers and artists to which the truth-seeking reformers who contribute to its pages belong. It is a small school as yet, but it includes the most genuine artistic aspirations and most ardent feeling of the times. Its influence is already deeply felt, and if its leaders hold firm to their own

principles, they will finally be recognized as the redeemers of American Art from its present servitude to tradition and falsehood, and its subserviency to the popular preference for what is showy and admired to what is intrinsically worthy of admiration.

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17. — *Dream Children*. By the Author of "Seven Little People and their Friends." Cambridge: Sever and Francis. 1864. 16mo. pp. 241.

AMONG the multitude of books for children published for the Christmas holidays, and for New Year's gifts, there will hardly be found any more charming than this little volume of stories. Its external form, the prettiness of its covers, the clearness of its finely-cut type, the appropriate originality of its initial letters, the excellence of its larger illustrations (better, however, in engraving than in design), are only the befitting dress and adornment of stories delightful alike in feeling and in fancy. Fancy is of all others the gift that the fairy godmother has most rarely given to the babies who were to become writers of stories for children. Hans Andersen's godmother gave him a large stock of it; and though there are said to be no fairies in the New World, Hawthorne got from somebody the precious gift in as full measure as if he had been born in the old country. Mr. Scudder will not think it a disparagement if we say that his stories sometimes remind his readers both of Andersen and Hawthorne, but that the best among them are those which are most original. If he will trust to his own fancy, seek the nourishment for it a little more at home, and if he will avoid a tendency to sentimentality which better suits German than American taste, he may take rank with the masters in the art of story-telling for children, and thus gain the happiest of literary reputations.

This book is not unworthily called "The Golden Treasury Juvenile," as forming one of that Golden Treasury Series the excellence and beauty of which are so well and widely known. No prettier books than these have been printed in America; and it will be a pleasure to the old as well as to the young, if, year after year, Mr. Scudder should add to the lengthening series a volume of stories as good as these "Dream Children."